

NASA Facts

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

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Space Science Education/Public Outreach

As part of NASA's overall education program, the Office of Space Science (OSS) announces the establishment of an education and public outreach "ecosystem," which will serve as a network for space science education, fostering a wide variety of highly leveraged education and public outreach activities that will be disseminated across the country. Key elements of the "ecosystem" include the establishment of four Education Forums and five regional broker/facilitators.

The Education Forums will serve as major centers for space science education and public outreach in each of the four OSS Science Themes. They will carry out major education and outreach initiatives, orchestrate and organize, in a comprehensive way, the education and public outreach aspects of individual OSS missions and research programs, and provide ready access to OSS-sponsored education and public outreach programs to both the space science and formal/ informal education communities across the country.

The broker/facilitators will work with the space science and education communities to identify high-leverage opportunities for education and public outreach and help arrange collaborations between scientists and educators.

The NASA Strategic Plan mandates that we "involve the education community in our endeavors to inspire America's students, create learning opportunities, enlighten inquisitive minds", and "communicate widely the content, relevancy, and excitement of NASA's missions and discoveries to inspire and to increase understanding and the broad application of science and technology." Space Science has an extraordinary potential for contributing to these goals, to help ensure that a continuing supply of scientists, engineers, and technologists will be available to meet the needs of the twenty-first century. Discoveries by space science missions and research programs have engaged people's imaginations, informed teachers, and excited students and the public about science and exploration. To further realize this potential, we have made education at all levels and the enhanced public

understanding of science an integral element of the Space Science Strategic Plan. Specifically, the Office of Space Science will:

- Have a substantial education and outreach program associated with every space science flight mission and research program.
- Increase the fraction of the space science community directly involved in education at the pre-college level and in contributing to the broad public understanding of science.
- Develop a presence in every State in the U.S. to serve as a focal point for encouraging and assisting scientists and educators to develop partnerships and, in so doing, contribute in a meaningful way to space science education and outreach.
- Organize a comprehensive, national approach for providing information on and access to the results from space science education and outreach programs.
- Continue, and refine or enhance where appropriate, programs dedicated to the development and support of future scientists and engineers.
- Provide new opportunities for minority universities in particular and for underserved/underutilized groups in general to compete for and participate in space science missions and research programs.
- Develop the tools to evaluate the quality, effectiveness, and impact of space science education and outreach programs.

The Education Forums and broker/facilitators will play a critical role in achieving these objectives. Individuals wishing further information on space science related education/outreach materials, activities, and opportunities to develop or participate in OSS sponsored education/outreach activities should consult the broker/facilitators and Education Forums.

OSS Education Forums:

Astronomical Search for Origins and Planetary Systems

Space Telescope Science Institute
Point of Contact: Dr. Carol Christian
Phone Number: (410) 338-4764
Email Address: carolc@stsci.edu

Structure and Evolution of the Universe

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Point of Contact: Roy Gould
Phone Number: (617) 496-7689
Email Address: rgould@cfa.harvard.edu

Solar System Exploration

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Point of Contact: Dr. Stephen Saunders
Phone Number: (818) 354-2867
Email Address: saunders@scn1.jpl.nasa.gov

Sun-Earth Connection

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Point of Contact: Dr. Richard Vondrak
Phone Number: (301) 286-8112
Email Address: vondrak@gsfc.nasa.gov

University of California-Berkeley

Point of Contact: Dr. Isabel Hawkins
Phone Number: (510) 643-5662
Email Address: isabelh@cea.berkeley.edu

Brokers/Facilitators:

Lunar and Planetary Institute

Point of Contact: Ms. Pam Thompson
Phone Number: (281) 486-2175
Email Address: thompson@lpi.jsc.nasa.gov

Southeast Regional Clearing House

Point of Contact: Dr. Cassandra Coombs
Phone Number: (803) 953-8279
Email Address: cass@jove.cofc.edu

Ohio Aerospace Institute

Point of Contact: Dr. Larry Cooper
Phone Number: (513) 245-9897
Email Address: larrycooper@oai.org

Space Science Institute

Point of Contact: Dr. Cherilynn Morrow
Phone Number: (303) 492-7321
Email Address: camorrow@colorado.edu

DePaul University

Point of Contact: Dr. Carolyn Narasimhan
Phone Number: (773) 325-1854
Email Address: cnarasim@condor.depaul.edu